

Minutes of July 9, 2008 Meeting of the Uintah Basin Regional Council

Attending: Tammie Lucero, Randall Bennett, Jack Bell, Laurie Brummond, Mark Raymond, Mark Holmes, Joseph Shaffer, Shelley Fenn, Don Ewell, Dan Wheeler, Sharon Wilkins, Deena Mansfield, Paul Hacking, Jone Wells, Shirley Weathers, Deb Dull, Gerald Gappmayer

Guests: Melvin Robinson, Jean Mold, Cody Christensen, Mike Mould,

DWS Staff: Peggy Killian, Toni Ansel, Bob Gilbert

RSVPed: Stewart Leith, Matt Watkins, Dave Woolstenhulme, Margo Weeks

Minutes were reviewed. Mark Raymond moved approval. Dan Wheeler seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Tammie provided the Chair's report. She said there had been a proposal brought to have the training provider process moved to where it is all done on the state level. She asked if there were some comments/questions. Bob explained that the proposal originated from the Central Region, where they have some provider applications almost every meeting, and it was taking the Council a lot of time to discuss and process them. Mark R. said that, in the past, there are some members that have been familiar with the company or organization that was applying, and the information from those members was always very helpful. Paul Hacking said that the review of training vendors is one of the main reasons for the Council. Tammie asked for a motion stating that we would like to continue to have regional council input on the training provider approval process: Sharon Wilkins made the motion, Mark Raymond seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

Paul provided an overview of the UBATC. He talked about how the Energy field has over 2000 students. Said a female student from Uintah High School took first in the state welding competition. Our allied health team went and did very well in the national competition. UBATC is struggling with the preparatory training, as the number of good jobs is so high, and most potential students are just going right into the workforce. Hard to get people in for training. Only had 16 LPN applicants last year. All were accepted and graduated. We also started an RN program this year – going very well. The occupation upgrade sector of training is very strong, with 150 companies doing training thru UBATC last year. The major focus now is the new building in Vernal. Has been a challenge to get contractors in the current environment, but we are making good progress. Scheduled completion for the new building is spring 2009. The well simulator hasn't arrived yet, will be here in a few weeks. We will have two buildings at the new site, one a classroom building, and the second for vocational trades. Will offer Diesel Mechanics again, and the CDL program. An underpass will be built to connect the high school with the UBATC building. Brick begins to go on next week; steel also starts next week. Will have a 40th anniversary next year for the UBATC. There is also some remodeling at the Roosevelt campus – doing a very nice culinary kitchen and cafeteria. Keeping staf is a problem, as the pay just isn't competitive with local industry. The energy field instructors and CDL teachers are hard to keep.

Melvin Robinson, Utah State Office of Education, presented about education and career technology education (CTE). CTE is new name of vocational education. CTE offers a sequence of courses to gain competencies. Secondary education pathways must articulate with post high school training. Website is www.schools.utah.gov/cte/ There is a new flyer for all 8th grade students., in the form of a new poster that highlights CTE opportunities. Jack said that our region will be doing the book covers

for high school students that have CTE information on them.

Melvin said that are 62 pathways now. All are not available at every school. Presently, we are aligning the pathways academically, so the numerous steps will be shown from grade to grade. Mark H said his son went through the auto mechanics program at the high school, got into robotics, then got his certificate. After he had gotten a lawn-mowing summer job, he got a call from where he had served an internship working with transmissions. He went to work there and is now working towards next level of certification. Melvin said the CTE website has many resources for teachers and counselors. Can use pieces of a pathway to get students started down a certain path. The first edition of pathway book is now outdated. Website is current. Next focus is be sure our secondary partners understand what we are doing with careers. New term is 'Skilled and Technical Sciences' for vocational programs. Some thoughts on energy pathway – we want to pursue a grant. Will be working to add a course called Energy Foundations, a one semester course that could be added to pathways to give them an energy spin. Would focus on renewable and nonrenewable energy, electricity, and provide a career experience. Would have energy-production pathways taught by high school teachers with relevant endorsements. Could grow into full energy pathway. Want the course that will interest and excite students. Each 7th grader will be taking a course called CTE Intro. Also, have started using the term of 'Terminal training.' This is training doesn't transfer to a college – is strictly short term training to provide good skills. Associate Degrees are transferable.

Shelly asked how parents know about CTE. Melvin said want to be better at marketing all this information to parents and counselors. Jack said that administrators and counselors have been trained. Need to have a good fit with the school. Sequencing the courses is important. Takes some effort to get people to think in a different direction. Tammie said that parent involvement is an important part for the program to succeed. If all the information can be located at one website, will really help parents. Schools can offer numerous classes outside of designated career pathways. Kids need to be aware of the website. No fees are part of the program, other than supplies.

Tammie thanked Melvin for his presentation.

Paul gave a brief update on a Legislative Task Force looking at the governance of Utah College of Applied Technology and how it fits into Higher Ed. He said that the discussion has been fairly broad about governance for UCAT. UCAT would like its own Board of Directors, as opposed to being under Higher Ed Board. Also, there is quite a bit of interest in articulation agreements between ATC and higher ed. One option would be for UCAT to get its own Board, but would not provide education credits for any of its training courses. The Task Force meets again on July 15th.

Dan reported for the Childcare Task Force. The group met and is looking at some options to increase the number of quality child care providers available in the Basin. Want to pursue the possibility of some commercial franchises that have childcare operations around the country. The hospital in Roosevelt is closing its childcare operation, and is looking at what options may be available for those that were affected.

Randall then provided an update from the Duchesne County Employers Committee, saying that a workshop planned for the near future that will focus on Workers Comp issues. The Committee had a presentation on Meth in the Workplace at its last meeting.

Bob reported for the Youth Council, saying the last two meetings have focused on the adult ed programs in Duchesne and Uintah Counties. The Council wants to be sure the programs are

understood and utilized by all the partners. Will be working to promote adult ed programs with our customers.

Gerald gave the Region Director report. He began with a brief description of eREP, a new computer system for DWS. It has cost \$86 million and taken 6-7 years to develop. Is Windows-based and can be accessed via the Internet. Will be a great improvement over PACMIS, which is the current computer system we use for customer payments. EREP is being tested now in American Fork, and will be rolled out statewide around the first of 2009. Gerald then reviewed the DWS goals for this year:

- Customer Service – focus here will be on providing more Online services, and also 1-800 numbers that customers can call on to apply for our programs.
- Employee Success – want to build confidence and competence in our workers
- Innovation – one proposal here is to have a fax machine that will let customers fax their information right into an imager, which would then image and store the document. Beginning to get ready for the 4 10's schedule coming up in August. Most employees are excited about it. Probably the hardest on young employees with kids in childcare. Management will be as flexible as possible. Program will be tried for one year, then evaluated. Toni said that Friday is the slowest day of the week for customers coming into the EC, and Monday is the busiest.
- Prevention – Want to utilize more training and education for our customers to help them succeed. Will have a big focus on assisting customers to obtain GED or diploma.
- Global Competitiveness – We want to our workforce as skilled and globally competitive as possible. May look at the DWS childcare program, and work to simplify it.

The Council meeting then had a tour of the oil well simulation equipment. The new simulator is being made and will be in place in the next few months. Mike Mould, instructor, provided a very insightful presentation the natural gas industry in Uintah County. He said there is lots of gas still to be found, some of which is very deep and under high pressure. Mike's classes, which are for upper division operators/managers of exploration and production companies, have a strong emphasis on safety. Gas, in particular, is under 5000 pounds per square inch of pressure when in the well hole, and needs to be handled by workers that understand the dangers of each situation.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm. The next meeting, which will be held as part of the Council of Councils, is scheduled for Oct 9-10 at a nice facility near The Homestead in Heber Valley.